

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION -- CARTER AND STATE OF THE UNION

1. YUGOSLAV PRESS GIVES BALANCED VIEW OF CARTER STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS AND FIRST YEAR IN OFFICE. WEEKEND EDITIONS (JANUARY 21, 22) BELGRADE DAILIES "POLITIKA" AND "BORBA" STRESS NEW "EMPHASIS ON INTERNAL THEMES" IN DETAILED ACCOUNTS OF SPEECH, WHILE "POLITIKA" EDITORIAL INTERPRETS THIS AS RESULT OF POPULARITY FALL AT HOME.

2. AFTER NOTING CARTER FACES "AN INFLAMED POLITICAL BATTLE" OVER PANAMA CANAL TREATIES RATIFICATION, "POLITIKA" DISPATCH SEES "CARTER'S PROGRAM FOR DOMESTIC CONCERNS GRAVITATING TOWARD MODEST GAINS...FEDERAL (ECONOMIC) LEVERS WILL BE WIELDED CAUTIOUSLY, IN FACT CONSERVATIVELY, (SINCE) THE MAIN OBJECTION OF CONGRESS AND THE PRESS AT THE END OF THE YEAR WAS THAT CARTER HAD TRIED TO DO TOO MUCH AT THE SAME TIME."

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3. "ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND HIS ENERGY PROGRAM," ADDS "BORBA" CORRESPONDENT, "HOLD CENTER STAGE AS THE KEY POINTS AND THE MOTOR FORCE FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT...CARTER UNDERLINED THAT AMERICA'S MAIN CONTRIBUTION TO CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORLD ECONOMY WOULD BE AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM OF ENERGY CONSERVATION AT HOME..."

4. MEANWHILE, IN LENGTHY EDITORIAL, "JIMMY'S FIRST YEAR,"
"POLITIKA" COMMENTATOR DETAILS POPULARITY FALL AS TYPICAL OF
"NEWCOMER" PRESIDENTS AND EXPLAINS U.S. CRITICISM AS
"SURPRISING TO FOREIGNERS--SINCE AMERICA'S OPENNESS FOR THE
MOST PART EXISTS NOWHERE ELSE."

5. CARTER, EDITORIAL ADDS, "HAS EASILY TURNED" FROM "THE
PRESIDENT-PREACHER MOST AMERICANS LIKE AND MOST EUROPEANS ARE
UNCOMFORTABLE WITH...TO "PRACTICAL POLITICIAN" THAT AMERICA'S
ALLIES FIND EASIER TO ACCEPT..."

6. "SINCE AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT CANNOT BE SUCCESSFUL ABROAD
AS LONG AS HE IS UNSUCCESSFUL AT HOME...THE PRESIDENT MUST
GAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF HIS COUNTRYMEN...THAT HE CAN MANAGE
THE AMERICAN ECONOMY AND STRENGTHEN THE DOLLAR.

7. EDITORIAL CONCLUDES: "OBVIOUSLY, NEITHER HIS COUNTRYMEN
NOR FOREIGN ALLIES FIND CARTER AS SEDUCTIVE, SKILLED OR
SUCCESSFUL AS HE APPEARED TWELVE MONTHS AGO...BUT HE'S NO
LONGER AN UNKNOWN FACE...AS WHEN ALL AMERICAN WAS SAYING
"JIMMY WHO?" NOW THE SAYING IS: 'JIMMY LEARNS FAST.'"

WARNER

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